

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, U.S. Citizen Town Hall January 25th, 2022

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL TRAVEL

Q: What is the U.S. Embassy currently recommending to U.S. citizens considering travel to Ukraine or already residing here?

A: On January 23, the Department of State issued a Level 4 Travel Advisory - Do Not Travel for Ukraine due to increased threats of Russian military action. For the full text of the updated Travel Advisory, please visit the [Department's country information page for Ukraine](#). U.S. citizens already in Ukraine should consider departing now using commercial or other privately available transportation options.

Q: What assistance will the embassy provide in the event of an actual crisis?

A: The embassy will keep you informed through messages and security updates on our website – we are committed to always have the latest information posted there. We will message regularly about the availability of commercial travel options. We will also provide routine and emergency consular services as necessary.

Q: Will U.S. citizens be permitted to enter neighboring countries in the event of military hostilities in Ukraine? Which countries?

A: There are currently available flights to major European destinations from all airports – Kyiv, Odesa, Lviv, Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, and Dnipro, and we urge you not to wait and leave while there is still availability. If you are thinking of taking a train or driving to a neighboring country, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova, and Romania are current available options. At this time, U.S. citizens can enter [Hungary](#), [Moldova](#), [Romania](#), or [Slovakia](#) with either a vaccination certificate or a COVID test (or both). Currently, U.S. citizens may only enter [Poland](#) at the land border with special approval. Please visit the websites of the U.S. embassies of the country you are planning to travel to for more information about entry requirements.

Q: What if I can't afford to buy an airline ticket? Will the embassy help?

A: If you cannot afford to buy a plane ticket to the United States and no family or friends can assist, we may be able to issue you a loan to assist. Please contact us at KyivACS@state.gov and we will explain the loan application process. We can only issue a loan for a direct return to the United States.

Q: I have decided to stay in Ukraine after all. What do you recommend I do to be safe?

A: If you are staying in Ukraine, make sure that you have contingency plans in place and communicate those plans to your families outside of Ukraine.

Q: I want to register with the Embassy so that you know I am here and receive your messages. How can I do that?

A: You should register your travel to Ukraine in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). In addition, if you are in Ukraine, please complete the State Department's [Crisis Management System information form](#), which complements STEP as a situation-specific tool that helps us gather current information to best serve U.S. citizens currently in Ukraine.

Q: How do I contact you?

A: Depending on your inquiry, you can contact us as follows:

- American Citizens Services: KyivACS@state.gov, or if an emergency, you can call us at 044-521-5000.
- Nonimmigrant visa inquiries: KyivNIV@state.gov.
- Immigrant visas and adoptions: KyivIV@state.gov.
- Calls from the United States after business hours: 1-833-741-2777 (if dialing from overseas +1-606-260-4379)

PASSPORTS AND BIRTH

Q: Our child was recently born in Ukraine and we need travel documents for the child. How can we expedite this process? Also, this was a surrogate birth.

A: Please contact us at KyivACS@state.gov as soon as possible to let us know about your specific case, and we will do everything in our power to expedite your case so that you can leave as fast as possible with your newborn babies.

Q: I just applied for a U.S. passport renewal for myself and my family. It usually takes 2 weeks to receive the new passport, but we would like to fly out as soon as possible now. What can you do to help us?

A: Please email us at KyivACS@state.gov with your information, and we will let you know what options are available. If you need to travel immediately, we can provide you with an emergency passport.

Q: I have pets, and I want to know what steps I need to take to transport them. Where can I find this information?

A: The Department of State cannot provide advice or transportation assistance for pets. Please see <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel> for more information about traveling to the United States with pets.

VISAS

Q: I am a U.S. citizen and am married to/have a fiancé who is a Ukrainian citizen. I have not yet filed the I-130/I-129F, but I want her/him to leave Ukraine as soon as possible. Can I file the Immigrant petition at Embassy Kyiv?

A: Yes, you may submit your request for an I-130 local filing to KyivIV@state.gov. We will accommodate as many requests for local filings of I-130 petitions as conditions and resources at Embassy Kyiv allow.

Please note that I-129Fs for fiancé visas may not be filed outside of the United States, so we are unable to accept petitions for your fiancé to file for a K-1 visa petition approval at Embassy Kyiv. We will continue interviewing as many K-1 visa applicants whose I-129F petitions have been approved and sent to Embassy Kyiv as resources allow.

Q: I am a U.S. citizen and have already filed an IV petition for Ukrainian family member. The petition is still pending at the National Visa Center (NVC). What can I do to speed up the process?

A: If your beneficiary's IV case is current and eligible for transfer, you may submit a request to NVC to have the case transferred to Embassy Kyiv for expeditious processing. Please contact NVCExpedite@state.gov to request your case to be considered for expeditious processing.

Q: Alternatively, can my family members travel to the United States on a B1/B2 nonimmigrant visas so I can file the I-130 petitions for them in the United States?

A: A nonimmigrant B1/B2 visa may not be used for travel to the United States if the person intends to remain in the United States for more than six months or plans to adjust to an immigrant status. The best course of action in this scenario would be to expedite your I-130 with NVC or file a new petition as soon as possible. In order to qualify for a B1/B2 visa, an applicant must demonstrate that they have a residence abroad they do not intend to abandon. In order to qualify for an emergency B1/B2 appointment, applicants should not have had a prior visa refusal in the last 12 months, must intend to travel to the United States within three weeks of applying for their visa, and must demonstrate at the time of interview that their stay in the United States will be temporary. If there are additional extreme humanitarian circumstances, applicants may request an expedited appointment despite a recent prior refusal.

We encourage families to evaluate their individual situations and decide whether it is better for them to expedite an application for an immigrant visa for their Ukrainian family members, or whether to apply for a nonimmigrant visa that will only allow for a temporary stay in the United States.

Q: I am a U.S. citizen who lives with his family in Ukraine, and they are all Ukrainian citizens. They don't want to immigrate to the United States, but I also fear for their safety and would want them to travel with me should I have to leave. Can they get a nonimmigrant B1/B2 visa from Embassy Kyiv to travel with me?

A: If your family intends to travel to the United States for a temporary stay and they have a residence in Ukraine that they don't intend to abandon, they may apply for a B1/B2 tourist visa for temporary travel to the United States. We are not currently processing routine B1/B2 visas due to COVID, but we have a process in place for **immediate** family members of U.S. citizens to request an emergency B1/B2 appointment. Immediate family members include spouses and unmarried, minor children of U.S. citizens as well as parents of U.S. citizen minors. Please see our website for more information on how to apply for an [expedited appointment](#), or write us at support-Ukraine@ustraveldocs.com

Q: None of these options work for my family members. What should they do?

A: Travel to the United States is not the only option available for getting your family members out of harm's way. You may want to encourage your family members to travel to another country outside of Ukraine.

Q: Will you continue to do adoptions?

A: Processing adoption cases is a top priority for the State Department, and we are committed to continue to process them at this time as resources allow.

Q: Will the COVID vaccine or testing requirements for travel to the United States be waived for Ukrainians?

A: COVID vaccination and testing requirements for travel to the United States have not changed. All foreign travelers to the United States must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and have a negative COVID test performed one day before departure to the United States.

Q: I would like to seek asylum or be a refugee in the United States. What kind of visa do I need? How can you help me?

A: The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv does not process applications for refugee or asylum status in the United States. We refer you to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/refugees> for more information.